

Aerospace

Aerospace leads Europe in Open Innovation but lags in Al adoption

The Aerospace industry stands at the forefront of Open Innovation in Europe, with 92% of companies engaging in startup collaborations — the highest proportion across all sectors, according to Sopra Steria Next's Open Innovation Report 2025.

A total of 73% of Aerospace companies judge Open Innovation as important to their strategy, with the same proportion (73%) consistently achieving their objectives in most collaborations. The sector has also embedded Open Innovation at the highest levels of leadership, with 55% of companies placing responsibility for such initiatives with top management again, the top industry in Europe.

Despite this strong track record in Open Innovation overall, Aerospace firms are, in contrast, Europe's least advanced industry for incorporating startup Al solutions into their business. Only 18% have engaged in Al collaborations during the last two years — the lowest level among all industries.

Instead, Aerospace companies have prioritised cybersecurity partnerships, with 45% of collaborations focusing on this area, reflecting the sector's highly regulated environment.

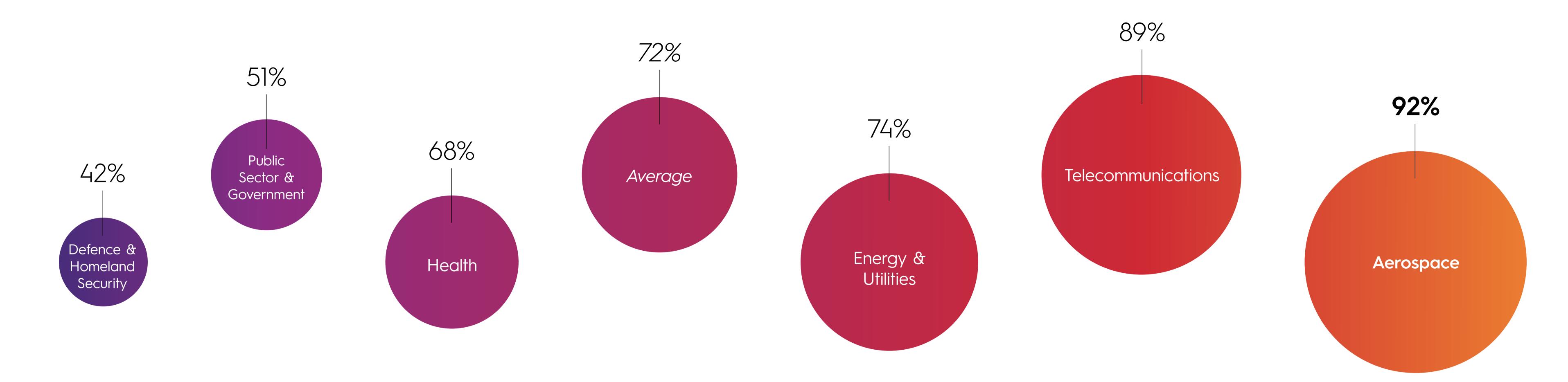
of Aerospace corporates have collaborated with startups - highest among any industry in Europe

of Aerospace companies judge Open Innovation as important to strategy slightly below average

of Aerospace corporates reach their objectives Always or Most of the Time - second highest level among all industries in Europe

Highest number of corporates to have collaborated with startup

Q: Has your organisation ever collaborated with a startup? Companies selecting Yes, both Domestic and Foreign Startups, Yes, Domestic Startups and Yes, Foreign Startups.



Average level of corporates who judge Open Innovation strategically important

88% 86%

60%

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

DEFENCE & HOMELAND

SECURITY

78% INSURANCE

RETAIL

58% LEGAL SERVICES

> 80% **AVERAGE**

AEROSPACE

Second highest level of successful collaborations

> 75% TELECOMMUNICATIONS

20% DEFENCE & HOMELAND SECURITY

52% ENERGY & UTILITIES

60% PUBLIC SECTOR & GOVERNMENT

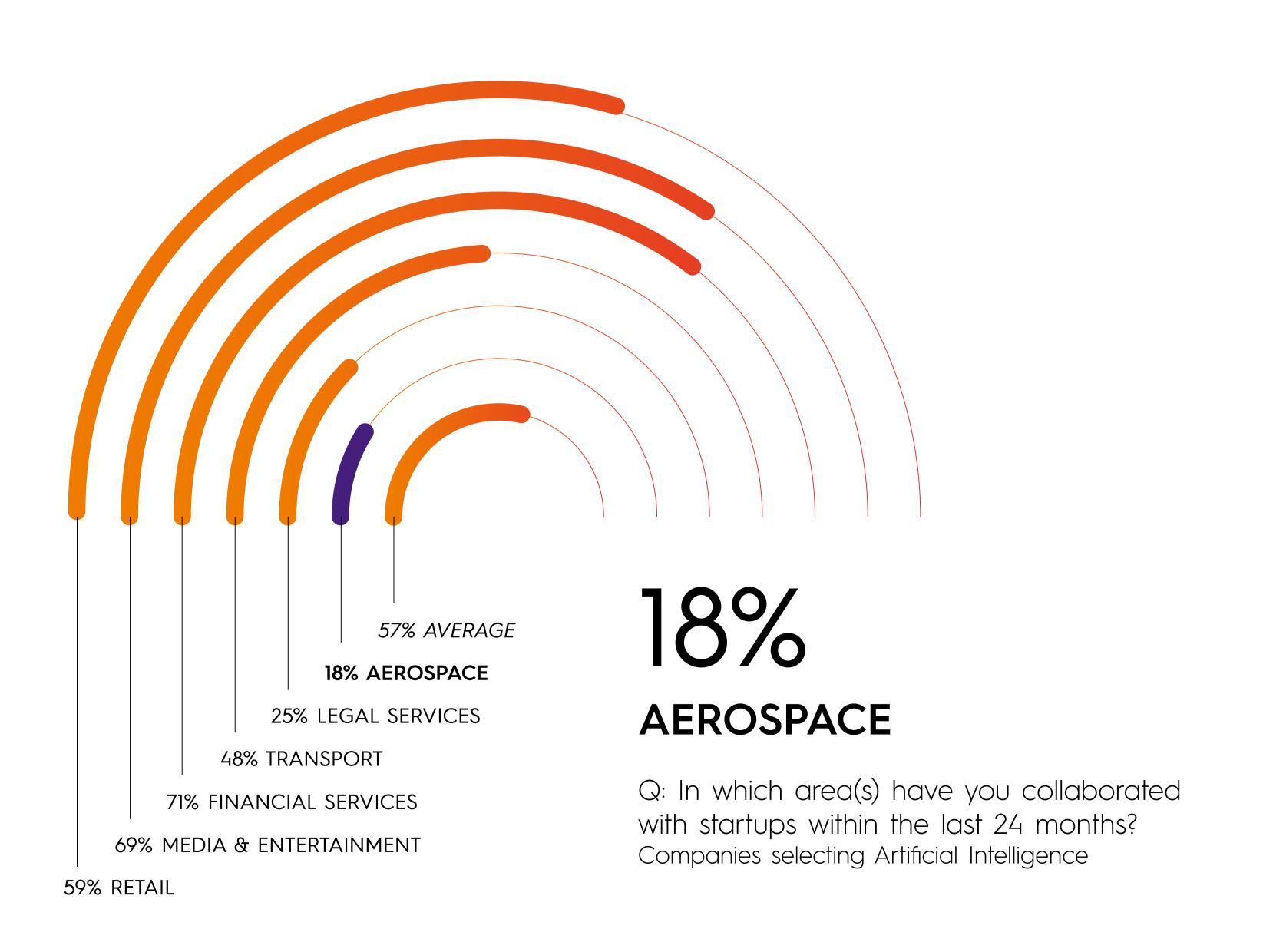
58% LEGAL SERVICES

65% *AVERAGE*

AEROSPACE

Q: How important is startup collaboration for your organisation's strategy? Companies answering Very Important (Mission Critical) and Slightly Important, but not Mission Critical Q: Overall, how often in your collaborations with startups did you achieve your objectives? Companies answering Always and Most of the Time.

Lowest number of corporates in Europe which have conducted AI projects in the past two years



Highest number of corporates to have placed responsibility with top management

